

M'MILLAN'S NOTED DISCOVERY

Peary Party Member Found Tropic Fern on Rock Near North Pole.
 Professor Donald McMillan, a member of the Peary north pole expedition, has made some important discoveries tending to prove that the frigid zone was once hotter than the equator is at present. He found large numbers of vegetable and marine fossils. In a huge rock split open by frost the perfect imprint of a great tropical fern was visible. The petrified stump of a tree eighteen inches in diameter was found, while there were other evidences of whole forests in a state of petrification. Some fine coal seams were also located. Near Black cape,



PROFESSOR DONALD M'MILLAN.
 latitude 81 degrees 25 minutes, fossil remains of tropical animals were found.
 A new species of seal was discovered by Professor McMillan, and the eggs, nest and a photograph of the knot, a rare arctic bird, never before collected, were secured.
 The knot is a bird that does not come down from the ice regions. It has been rarely captured by arctic explorers. There is a mounted specimen in a museum in St. Petersburg, the only one in Europe.
 Professor McMillan's loss in the recent raid on the steamer Roosevelt made by souvenir hunters is more than 100 books of all kinds, a camera,

a notebook containing the names of 237 Eskimos of the Etah tribe and a notebook on animal life above the eighty-second parallel. Mr. Borup has lost twenty-five books and material relating to photography.

NEW ROOSEVELT HISTORY.

Ex-President Said to Plan to Tell All About Texas.
 Theodore Roosevelt will write a history of Texas while in Texas next year, according to an announcement made by Colonel Cecil A. Lyon of Sherman, Republican leader in Texas and a personal friend of the former president.

Lyon declares that this information is authentic and that Mr. Roosevelt has planned to write the history of the Lone Star State for a long time and has collected a trunkful of data. Mr. Lyon says Mr. Roosevelt decided to write this history because of his great admiration for famous old Texas characters like Crockett, Houston and Austin.

Mr. Roosevelt will come to Texas next spring. He will go to Demasite, Lyon's ranch, where he will prepare his manuscripts for publication.

FIRST SCHOOL OF FLYING.

Boston Man Starts It With Two Experts as Teachers.

What is believed to be the first school of air flying in the United States has been started by Frank Palmer Spear of the Boston Y. M. C. A.

Spear has put in charge of the course H. Helm Clayton, whose work at the Blue Hill observatory has stamped him as a leading authority on air and air currents, and Albert A. Merrill of Brookline, whose work along the lines laid down by the pioneer aviator Chanute helped give impetus to the work of the Wright brothers.

Clams in Maine Waters.

An attempt is to be made to introduce the famous Massachusetts and Rhode Island clams to Maine waters, and two men from Massachusetts and others who are to be sent to Lewiston, Me., by Commissioner of Sea and Shore Fisheries James Donohue will soon begin the work. These clams are very large and have very white shells and command a much higher price in the market than the Maine product. At the last legislature people interested in the subject succeeded in getting an appropriation from the state. It will probably be two seasons before the results of the work can be known.

The Gazette-Times 50c per month.

NEW GUINEA COURTSHIP.

All the Proposals of Marriage Are Made by Women.

Away off in the strange island of New Guinea it is leap year all the time in one important sense, for out there all the proposals of marriage are made by the women. It is considered beneath the dignity of the male inhabitants of New Guinea to even notice a woman, and consequently the women perforce must notice the men and must start any idea of weddings, etc.

So when the island belle of New Guinea becomes in love she promptly sends a piece of string to the sister of the lucky man. If he has no sister she sends it to his mother or to some female relative—this because the man and his male relatives are assumed to be above taking any steps toward acquiring a wife.

Then the sister says to the man involved: "Brother, I have news. So-and-so is in love with you." If inclined to matrimony the man makes an engagement to meet the enamored lady. When they meet it is alone, and they either decide to wed or drop the entire proposition at once. There is no courting, for the man is not allowed, theoretically at least, to waste any time on a woman—not even enough time to make love to the lady or to allow her to make love to him.

The betrothal is announced, and the engaged man in New Guinea is branded on the back with charcoal, but the woman's mark of engagement to wed is actually cut into her skin and is never allowed to completely vanish. If either one decides to break the engagement nothing can be done by the offended party.

If the girl decides that, after all, she sent the little piece of string by mistake the man is apt, however, to catch her some time alone and beat her. If the man jilts the woman her relatives often hunt him up and administer a sound drubbing. Blood, however, is seldom shed, as the breaking of these women made engagements is not deemed a very serious matter.

Though the women propose the weddings in New Guinea, the condition of the wife is miserable and unjust in the extreme. The girl is merely the property and slave of the husband. He can beat her unrebuked and even kill her with impunity if she incurs his enmity.—Atlanta Constitution.

How He Looked.

Green—I saw your friend White this morning. Brown—So? I heard he was sick. How did he look? Green—He was looking the other way when I saw him. He owes me \$10.—Chicago News.

The Wilderness.
 This theater of bloody conflicts is a vast sea, so to speak, of a dense forest—a second growth more than a century old. It is made up chiefly of scrubby, low limbed, stubborn oaks and disordered, haggard pines, for the soil is cold and thin, with here and there scattering clumps of alien cedars. Some of the oaks are large enough to cut two railroad ties, and every once and awhile you come across an acre or two of pines ten to twelve inches in diameter, tall and tapering, true to the soaring propensities of their kind. But generally, and above all where the battle was fought, the trees are noticeably stunted and so close together and thick lower limbs so intermingled with a thick underbrush that it is very difficult indeed to make one's way through them.—Atlantic Monthly.

Meredith's Advice to Stead.

W. T. Stead tells a characteristic story of George Meredith, which is all the more appreciable as it is told against himself.

"He was a true friend," says Mr. Stead, "not less faithful in criticism than he was cordial in his appreciation. Of the former I remember well the neat way in which he put me out of conceit with my first attempt to write a story. I sent him my little effort with fear and trembling. My trepidation was not without warrant. 'I have read "From the Old World to the New,"' he wrote. 'Some of the characters are interesting and well drawn. One of them especially reminds me of Cecil Rhodes. But if any one of your friends tells you that he likes the story as a story, don't believe him!'"

Swiss Flags.

The Swiss flag is red, and it bears a Greek cross in its center. The Swissers declared their independence in 1307, and at the battle of Morgarten, 1315, where the Austrians were defeated, they carried a plain red flag without any device. During the seventeenth century a white cross was added, though it is said that the cross appeared on some Swiss flags as early as 1330. The different cantons of Switzerland have different coats of arms and different flags.

Verdi's Secrecy.

Verdi observed great secrecy concerning his operas, even to his business associates, and it is said that the first intimation his business managers, the Ricordis, received of the composition of "Falstaff" was a toast offered by Bolto, who at supper one night, when the publisher and his wife were present, slyly glanced at Verdi and proposed a health to the "fat knight," at which it seemed Verdi and Bolto had been working for months.

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